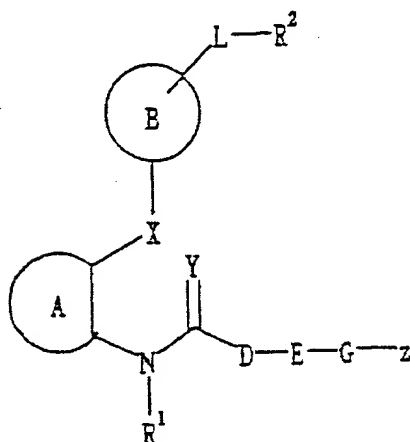


**In the Claims**

**Please substitute the following claims 17, 25 and 31 for the claims 17, 25 and 31 now pending in the above-identified application.**

1. (Previously Presented) A Compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



( I )

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted

C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

- (iii) a phenyl group,
- (iv) a benzyl group,
- (v) an optionally-substituted amino group,
- (vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and
- (vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

2. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein L is an alkylene group optionally interrupted by -O- and optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group.
  
3. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein L is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group.
  
4. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is (1) an unsubstituted amino group, (2) a piperidyl group, or (3) an amino group optionally having one or two substituents selected from (i) a benzyl group, (ii) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by an amino or phenyl group, (iii) a (mono- or di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl)-carbamoyl or -thiocarbamoyl group, (iv) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, (v) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-sulfonyl group, (vi) a piperidylcarbonyl group, and (vii) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or an amino group.

5. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  is an unsubstituted amino group.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein A is an optionally-substituted benzene ring.

7. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein B is an optionally-substituted benzene ring.

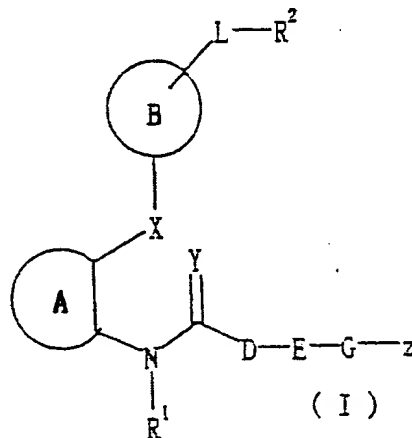
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is an oxygen atom.

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y is two hydrogen atoms, and  $R^1$  is an acyl group.

14. (Previously Presented) A Compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof



wherein Ring A is an optionally-substituted benzene ring;

Ring B is a benzene or cyclohexane ring optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

Z is a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl, C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl, piperidyl, thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, indanyl or indolyl group optionally having from 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a formyl group, a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl group, an oxo group and a pyrrolidinyl group;

D is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

G is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group optionally having a phenylene group and optionally substituted by a phenyl group;

R<sup>1</sup> is (a) a hydrogen atom, (b) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl or C<sub>7-14</sub> aralkyl group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from

(1) a halogen atom,

(2) a nitro group,

(3) an amino group optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected

from a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl group, a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>7-14</sub> aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-sulfonyl group and a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-sulfonyl group,

(4) (i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl group, a C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonyl group, a carboxyl group or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group, (ii) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a

hydroxy group, (iii) a benzoyl group, or (iv) a hydroxy group optionally substituted by a mono- or di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino-carbonyl group,

(5) a C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl group,

(6) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, and

(7) a thienyl group, a furyl group, a thiazolyl group, an indanyl group, an indolyl or a benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, or (c) an acyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> is (1) an unsubstituted amino group, (2) a piperidyl group, or (3) an amino group optionally having one or two substituents selected from

- (i) a benzyl group,
- (ii) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group optionally substituted by an amino or phenyl group,
- (iii) a mono- or di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbamoyl or -thiocarbamoyl group,
- (iv) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy-carbonyl group,
- (v) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-sulfonyl group,
- (vi) a piperidylcarbonyl group, and
- (vii) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or an amino group;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

E is -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

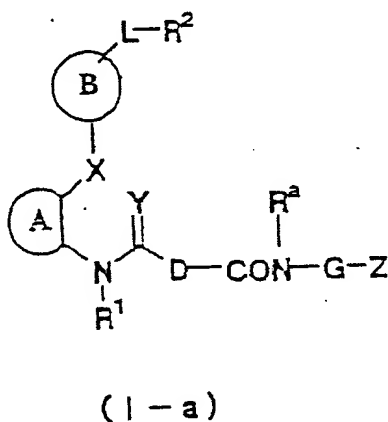
wherein R<sup>a</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group; and

L is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group optionally interrupted by -O- and optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group.

15. (Previously Presented) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Z is a phenyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom; D is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group; G is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group; R<sup>1</sup> is (a) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>7-14</sub> aralkyl group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from (1) a hydroxy group, (2) a phenyl group, (3) a thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, indanyl, indolyl or benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, and (4) an amino group optionally substituted by a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-carbonyl, C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-carbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-sulfonyl or C<sub>6-14</sub> aryl-sulfonyl group, or (b) an acyl group; R<sup>2</sup> is an unsubstituted amino group; L is a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group; and Y is two hydrogen atoms.

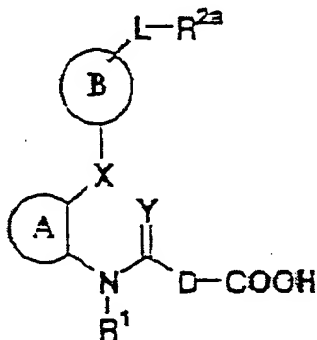
16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a compound of a formula (I-a):



wherein the symbols A, B, X, Y, L, D, G, Z, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> have the same meanings as in claim

1, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of a formula (IIa):



(IIa)

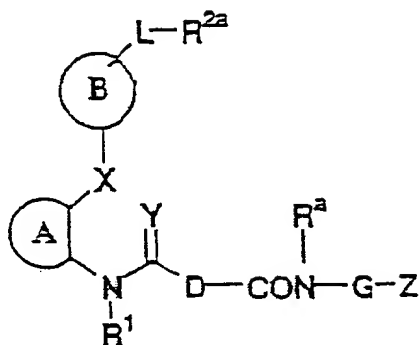
wherein R<sup>2a</sup> represents an optionally-protected, optionally-substituted amino group; and the other symbols A, B, X, Y, L, R<sup>1</sup> and D have the same meanings as in claim 1, or its reactive derivative or salt with a compound of a formula (III):



( III )



wherein the symbols **G, Z and R<sup>a</sup>** have the same meanings as in claim 1, or its salt to give a compound of a formula (Ia-a):

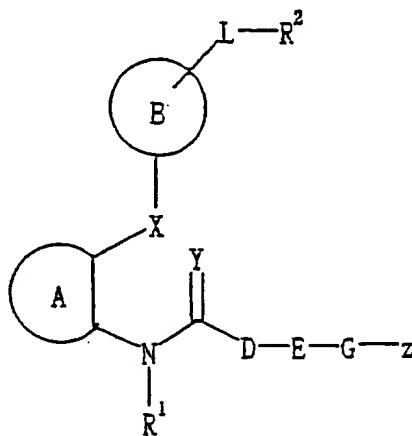


(Ia-a)

wherein the symbols **A, B, X, Y, L, D, G, Z, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>a</sup>** have the same meanings as above, or its salt, optionally followed by de-protecting it.

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



( I )

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

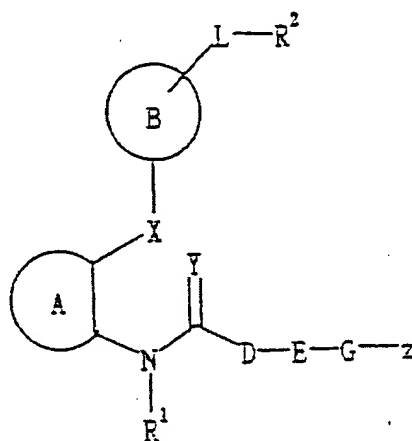
X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 19 and 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for treating diabetes comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



( I )

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

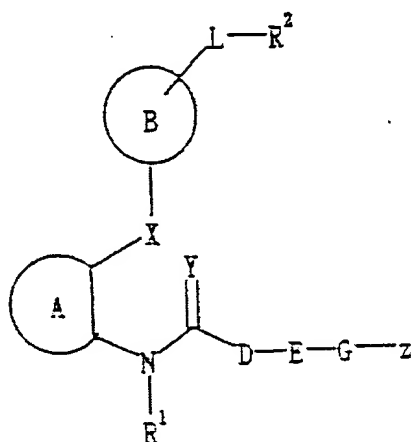
X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

Claims 22 and 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method for treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



( I )

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

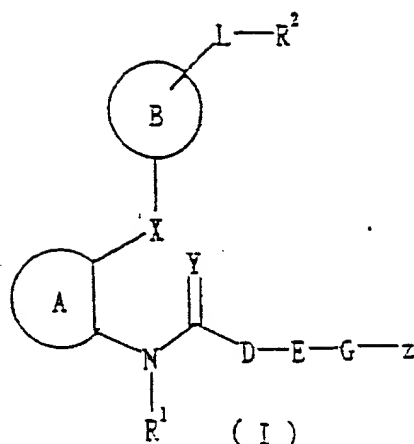
and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~complications of diabetes~~ diabetic complications comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

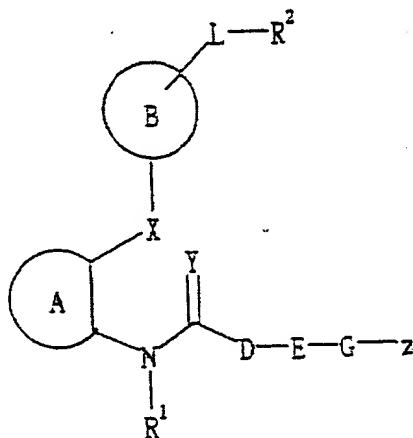
and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

26 (Previously Presented) A method for treating intractable diarrhea comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



( I )

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;



R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

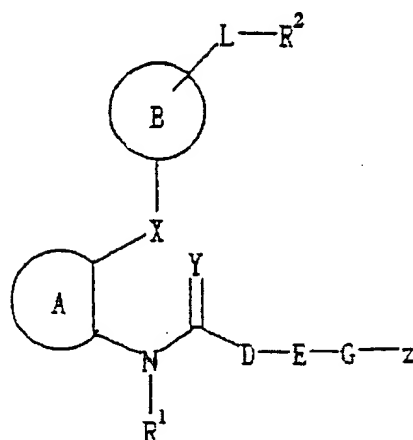
and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) A compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



( I )

wherein Ring A represents a homocyclic aromatic ring substituted with halogen;

Ring B represents a cyclic hydrocarbon group;

Z represents a halogenated cyclic hydrocarbon group;

R<sup>1</sup> represents an acyl group substituted with an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is methylene, ethylene, propylene or butylene;

E represents -CON(R<sup>a</sup>)-

wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents a hydrogen atom;

G is methylene or ethylene;

L is methylene or ethylene;

X represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

28. (Previously Presented) N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof.
29. (Previously Presented) A method for treating diabetes comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.
30. (Previously Presented) A method for treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.
31. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~complications of diabetes~~ diabetic complications comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for treating intractable diarrhea comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.